## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In Regule Application of: Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned MAGILL et al. Examiner: Not Yet Assigned Serial No.: 10/800,079 FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Filed: March 11, 2004 "EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EV493476475US Atty. File No.: 3944-13-CIP-1 DATE OF DEPOSIT: \_\_\_\_ For: "A Process and Apparatus for I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE VIA Improving and Controlling the "EXPRESS MAIL" ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR Vulcanization of Natural and PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450. Synthetic Rubber Compounds" TYPED OR PRINTED NAME: Chasity C. Rossum Mail Stop: Amendments Commissioner for Patents

Dear Sir:

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Enclosed is a Petition for Unintentional Delay in Claiming Priority, together with a check in the amount of \$1,370.00 as payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t). In addition to the request herein to amend the paragraph claiming the benefit of related applications, a corresponding Supplemental Application Data Sheet is also being provided having the same priorities as identified in the amendment to the specification requested herein.

Although Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-1970.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: